



## Time matters

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# Time Matters

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# KEY THEMES IN PHD

- Anticipatory Knowledge
- The Politics of Becoming: Actor Network Theory
- Scenario Planning
- The Emergence of Nanotechnology
- Time & Nanotechnology
- Legitimization of Foresight
- Strategy

# ON NANOTECHNOLOGY AS A FIELD

1. The newness of the terrain: No accurate roadmap, nor relevant historical evidence.
2. The cross-disciplinarity of the field: functionally distinct fields merging; convergence or confusion; what counts is debated.
3. Temporal discrepancies: A diversity of “timescapes” are evident within the discourses of nanotechnology.

- A diversity of *timescapes* are evident within the discourses of nanotechnology
- Timescapes and conceptions of temporality are overlooked but fundamental aspects of nanotechnology actor-networks
- A conflicting diversity of timescapes within the actor networks

# TIME MATTERS: TEMPORALITY & NANOTECHNOLOGY

<b>Timescape</b>		
<i>Trajectories</i>		
<i>Disruptive/ Discontinuous</i>		
<i>Path Dependence</i>		
<i>Emerging</i>		
<i>Indeterminate</i>		

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<i>Indeterminate</i>	Time as unpredictable	Assert desires and create meaningful futures

1) Mutual accountability

2) Bad recipes

*Recipes*: a way to organize time constructs into prescriptive codes of behavior (Schultz 1967)

3) Unmet expectations

- No way to authorize the futures of the different timescapes
- Disturbs cause and effect moving sequentially to the future  $X \rightarrow Y$
- Promises defy by postulating that if  $Y$  is supposed, then  $X$  occurs
- The validity or credibility of the promise claim cannot be tested by traditional measures - gaining unsubstantiated authority due to timed dimension

# QUESTIONS

How can temporality be acknowledged and reconciled?

Who authorizes expectations and the future of nanotechnology?

What legitimates an expectation?

Whose expectations matter?

Since the term was coined and the field first began to take shape, nanotechnology has been saturated in futuristic promises and threats to occur *later*.

Both the uncertainty and expectancy of nanotechnology lend a certain degree of fantasy or science fiction to most characterizations.

Nanotechnology is largely about potential and theoretic possibility

The question of *when?* in the nanotechnology space is critical and unsettled.

